

Senate Resolution 964

By: Senator Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. James Melton Isom; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, seventy years ago a legacy was born when James Melton Isom came into this
3 world, welcomed into the arms of the late Reverend Johnnie Isom, Sr., and Lora Lee Smith
4 Isom; and

5 WHEREAS, when James Melton Isom was one of the first babies to be publicly blessed at
6 the First African Missionary Baptist Church in Baxley, the minister asked in his blessing
7 prayer if God would bestow upon James a long life and great talent; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Isom is living proof that God does answer prayers as he began playing on
9 the piano at the tender age of four all of the songs he heard in Sunday School while his feet
10 dangled from the stool; and

11 WHEREAS, he became a prodigy in his home town and started playing and singing with his
12 brother Isaiah and sister Eleanor at the local hotel songs such as, "My Mind is Made Up and
13 My Heart is Fixed," "I'm Going All the Way with the Lord," and "Jesus Wants Me to be a
14 Sunbeam"; and

15 WHEREAS, as a teenager, he was a star athlete of the basketball team, being sure to attend
16 the prayer meetings on Tuesday nights before going to the game; and

17 WHEREAS, at this time in his life, Mr. Isom was playing for local churches, learning music
18 from a local musician, and traveling to Ft. Valley State College to learn music from the late
19 Mr. William Moore; and

20 WHEREAS, he attended Ft. Valley State College where he majored in music, minored in the
21 beautiful Agnes Ransby, was elected "Gentleman of the Year," and won the hearts of the late

1 Dr. Troup, the president, the late Mr. William Mathis, his music instructor, and the late Mrs.
2 Clara West, who actually sent him to Thomson; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Isom began teaching in Thomson in 1959 at McDuffie County Training
4 School, later renamed R.L. Norris High School, where his days as school musician were
5 filled with many honors for his choral and ensemble presentations, both locally and
6 statewide; and

7 WHEREAS, the R.L. Norris Chorus was always a winner in competition under Mr. Isom's
8 direction; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1991, when he retired from the McDuffie County School System, he found
10 that he was not yet ready to be completely retired and, therefore, began teaching in the
11 Warren County School System; and

12 WHEREAS, he has been invited on several occasions to lend his voice to Handel's Messiah
13 presentations at the First Baptist Church in Thomson, Georgia; to render music for special
14 occasions throughout the community and across the state; and to do choir workshops; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Isom has dedicated himself to Springfield Baptist Church; and

16 WHEREAS, his untiring dedication to the music ministry has been a tremendous inspiration
17 to the church and the community; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Isom actively participates in the Georgia General Missionary Baptist
19 Convention, Fourth Shiloh Convention, and others too numerous to list, in addition to being
20 an inspirational Sunday School teacher in the youth department; and

21 WHEREAS, a strong family man, he and his college minor, Agnes Ransby, have been
22 blessed with two wonderful sons, who themselves are strong family men; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Isom has a deep respect for his home and family and he truly loves God;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, as a man, musician, minister of music, and deacon, James Melton Isom has
2 always found peace and inspiration in music; it seems that it is in his bones as he even walks
3 with rhythm.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
5 recognize Mr. James Melton Isom for his prolific contributions of music and song to the
6 ministry, his community, this state, and the world.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
8 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. James Melton Isom.